

ITEM 11A

Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant Process

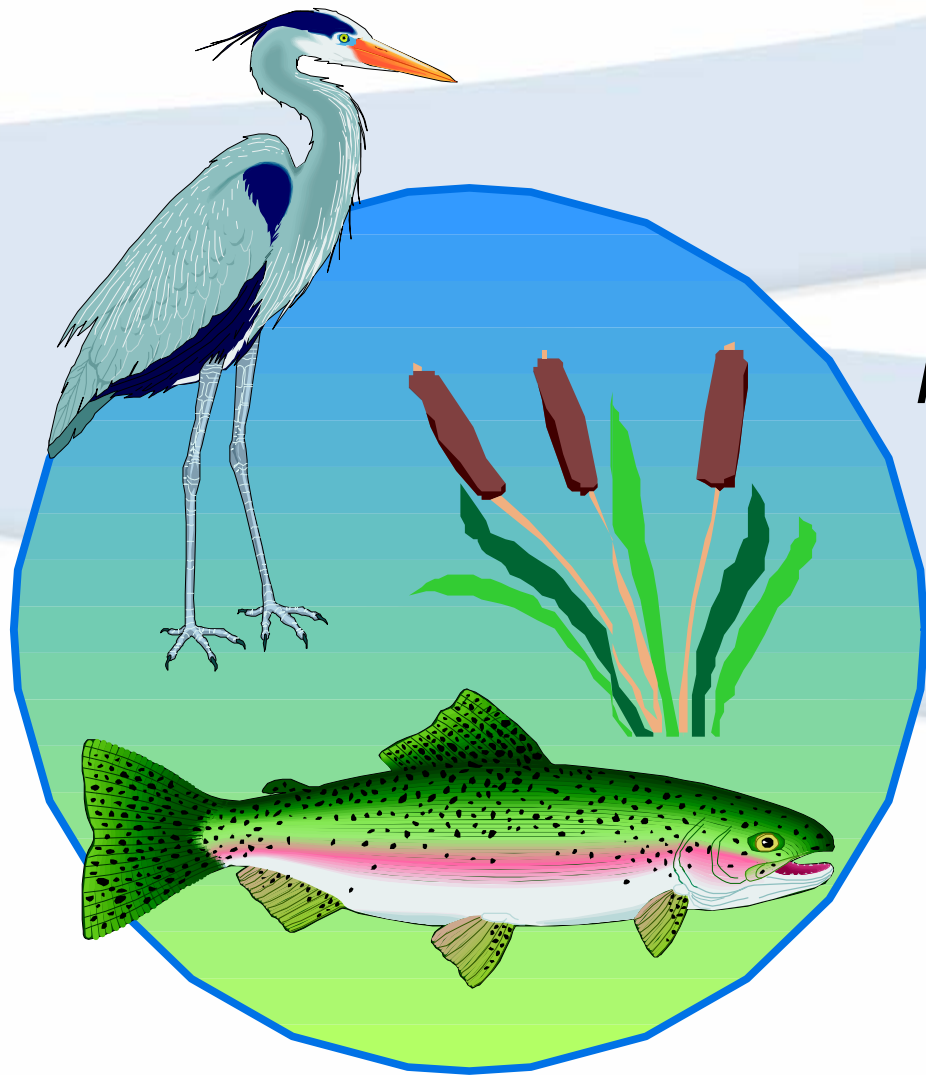
**Recommendation about process, criteria and priorities
for grants that assist farmers in integrating agricultural activities
with ecosystem restoration**

(Prop. 50, Chapter 7 – Action Item)

Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee

August 11, 2005

Proposed Solicitation Guidelines



*Projects that assist farmers
in integrating agricultural
activities with ecosystem
restoration*

Purpose of Briefing

To provide background and an overview of the ERP's solicitation guidelines for projects that integrate agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration consistent with Proposition 50

Proposition 50 ERP Funds

...not less than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) shall be allocated for projects that assist farmers in integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration.

ERP's agricultural activities that benefit wildlife and fish

- *Build on successes.* A number of ERP projects enhance ecosystem function through agricultural activities
- *Local delivery.* Support organizations best positioned to assist private landowners
- *Focus.* Prioritize MSCS species in areas with high likelihood for success

Cross-cutting objectives

- Improve integration of State and Federal private land conservation programs
- Use limited State funds as leverage to maximize investments in private land conservation
- Address stakeholder concerns regarding barriers to conservation in agricultural landscapes

Proposal: Focused Solicitation

- Priorities
- Priority practices
- Geographical focus

Summary of Priorities:

- Projects that develop and implement agricultural activities that benefit MSCS-covered wildlife and fish (*9 priority practices outlined*)
- Pilot implementation and research projects that conserve giant garter snakes (GGS)
- Restoration permit coordination or regulatory assurances for agricultural activities benefiting MSCS species
- Projects that protect farmland habitats and buffer previous conservation investments
- Targeted research and demonstrations of integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration

Priority Practices

- Semi-permanent wetlands
- Post-harvest flooding
- Tailwater return ponds/habitats
- Irrigation management
- Erosion Control
- Integrated pest management
- Riparian/floodplain enhancements
- Vegetated filter strips
- Altered cropping or harvesting patterns

Geographical Focus

Priority areas for the giant garter snake:

- Butte Basin
- Colusa Basin
- Sutter Basin, and
- American Basin

Other priority areas:

- Sacramento River
- Cosumnes River
- Yolo Basin
- North Delta
- Tuolumne River
- Merced River
- West San Joaquin Basin
(and San Joaquin River between Gravelly Ford and Vernalis)
- Napa River, and
- Petaluma River

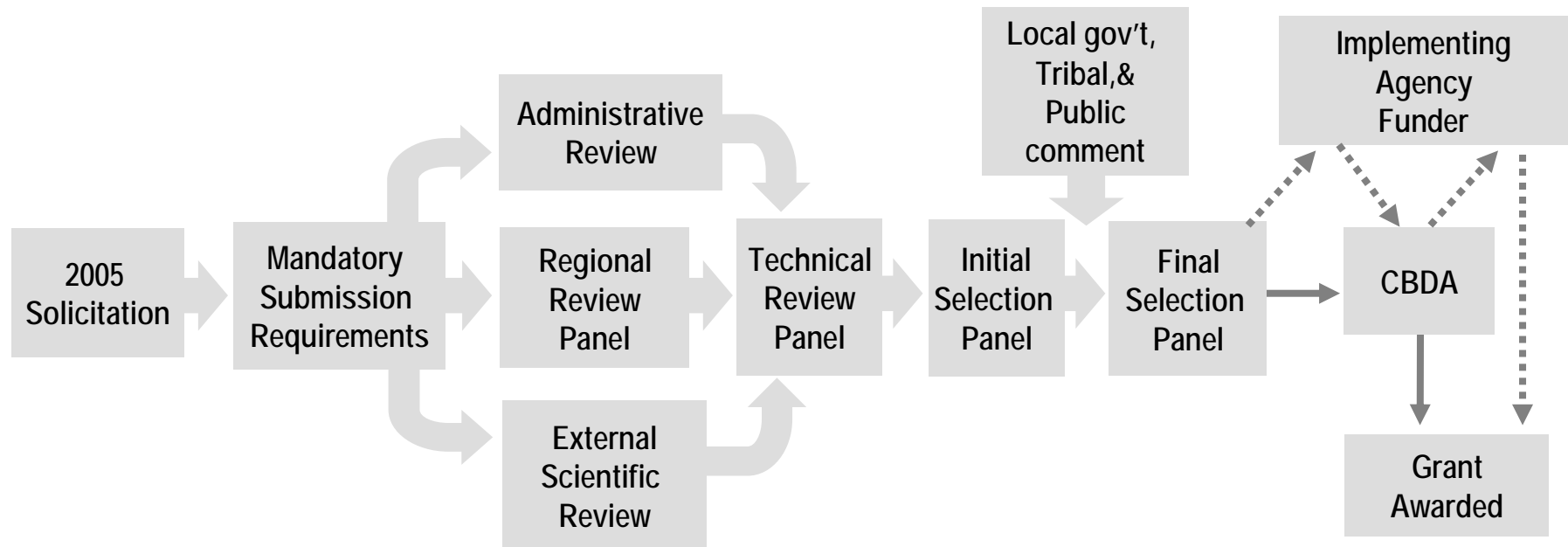
Other desirable features

- ***Matching funds.*** Projects co-funded from non-CBDA sources, farm conservation programs
- ***Durable projects.*** Projects that ensure long-term species benefits
- ***Appropriate scale.*** Projects that achieve landscape scale benefits through multiple landowners
- ***Locally-based partnerships that benefit private landowners.***
- ***Multiple objectives.*** Projects that enhance habitat for MSCS species while improving farm viability

Proposition 50 eligibility: agencies and non-profit organizations

- Local agencies (e.g., RCDs)
- Private non-profit organizations (as statutorily defined)
- Tribes
- Universities
- State and Federal agencies

Review process



.....→ Grants funded by implementing agency
——→ Grants funded by the Authority

Anticipated Schedule

September 2005	Final PSP released
Sept/Oct 2005	Public workshops for Prospective Applicants
November 2005	Proposals due
March 2006	Initial recommendations
April 2006	Public comment period
May 2006	Final recommendations
June 2006	Recommendations presented to the Authority and other funding agencies; Contracting